

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 17976 180857Z

13-12

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 HEW-06 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01

CIAE-00 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07

IO-10 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 SS-15

SP-02 INT-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-02 STR-04 /115 W

----- 080894

R 180845Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5608

UNCLAS TOKYO 17976

FOR OES/ENP

DEPT PASS TO EPA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, JA, US

SUBJECT: JAPANESE REACTIONS TO EPA'S NEW REGULATIONS ON VINYL CHLORIDE (VC)

REF: TOKYO 16383

1. EPA'S DECEMBER 16 PROPOSAL ON VC EMISSION STANDARD HAS GIVEN STRONG SHOCK TO JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CONCERNED AND VC INDUSTRY, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF ITS ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS.

2. MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI), A POWERFUL GOVERNMENT AGENCY WHICH USUALLY TAKES SIDES WITH INDUSTRY ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, WAS FRANK IN VOICING ITS CONCERN THAT THE PROPOSED MEASURE, WHEN APPLIED TO JAPANESE VC PLANTS, MAY COST THEM "COLOSSAL SUM" FOR CONVERTING THEIR MANUFACTURING PROCESSES.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, JAPANESE SCIENTISTS INTERESTED IN VC POLLUTION PROBLEMS ARE IN FAVOR OF EPA PROPOSAL, AND HAVE TAKEN OCCASION TO CALL UPON GOVERNMENT TO SET STANDARDS FOR VC

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TOKYO 17976 180857Z

EMISSIONS IMMEDIATELY.

4. IN JAPAN, THERE ARE ABOUT 40 VC MANUFACTURING PLANTS, BUT ACTUAL STATE OF VC EMISSIONS FROM THESE FACTORIES HAS NOT BEEN CLARIFIED. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA) PLANS TO FORMULATE UNIFORM STANDARDS FOR MEASUREMENT OF VC EMISSIONS BY END OF CURRENT FISCAL YEAR (MARCH 1976) SO AS TO MEASURE EMISSION CONCENTRATIONS IN MODEL AREAS DURING FISCAL 1976. ANY STATUTORY REGULATION OF VC EMISSIONS WOULD FOLLOW THE MEASUREMENT.

5. MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (MHW), MEANWHILE, IS EXPECTED TO SET TOLERANCES FOR VC MONOMER IN PVC PLASTIC RECEPTABLES AND VESSELS AT 1 PPM OR LESS "IN THE FIRST HALF OF NEXT YEAR." MINISTRY OF LABOR SET STANDARD FOR VC FOR WORK ENVIRONMENT AT VC PLANTS LAST JUNE, LIMITING VC CONCENTRATIONS TO 2 PPM OR LESS. IN ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE NOTICE, LABOR MINISTRY LAST OCTOBER ORDERED VC PLANTS TO INSTALL VENTILATION DEVICES TO MAINTAIN THIS LEVEL.

6. A TEST PLANT FOR RECOVERING AND ELIMINATING VC MONOMERS HAS BEGUN OPERATING IN JAPAN. THE PLANT, DEVELOPED BY VINYL CHLORIDE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION, AN INDUSTRY ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED BY 21 VC MANUFACTURERS LAST APRIL, FEATURES USE OF ACTIVATED CARBON FOR ABSORBING MONOMER. BOTH FIXED AND FLUIDIZED BED SYSTEMS ARE CURRENTLY BEING TESTED AT TWO DIFFERENT SITES. ASSOCIATIKN AIMS TO BUILD FULL SCALE PLANT BY MARCH 1977. COST OF VC MONOMER ELIMINATION USING THIS PLANT IS STILL UNKNOWN.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: IN LIGHT OF PROMINENT PLAY GIVEN EPA PROPOSAL IN JAPANESE PRESS, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FULL TEXT OF DECEMBER 16 PROPOSAL TO MEET POSSIBLE REQUESTS FROM GOJ AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY.

HODGSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REGULATIONS, CHLORINE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975TOKYO17976  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750439-1137  
**From:** TOKYO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751230/aaaabaax.tel  
**Line Count:** 93  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION OES  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 TOKYO 16383  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JAPANESE REACTIONS TO EPA'S NEW REGULATIONS ON VINYL CHLORIDE (VC)  
**TAGS:** SENV, JA, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006